

LAOS

SERVICE & CULTURE

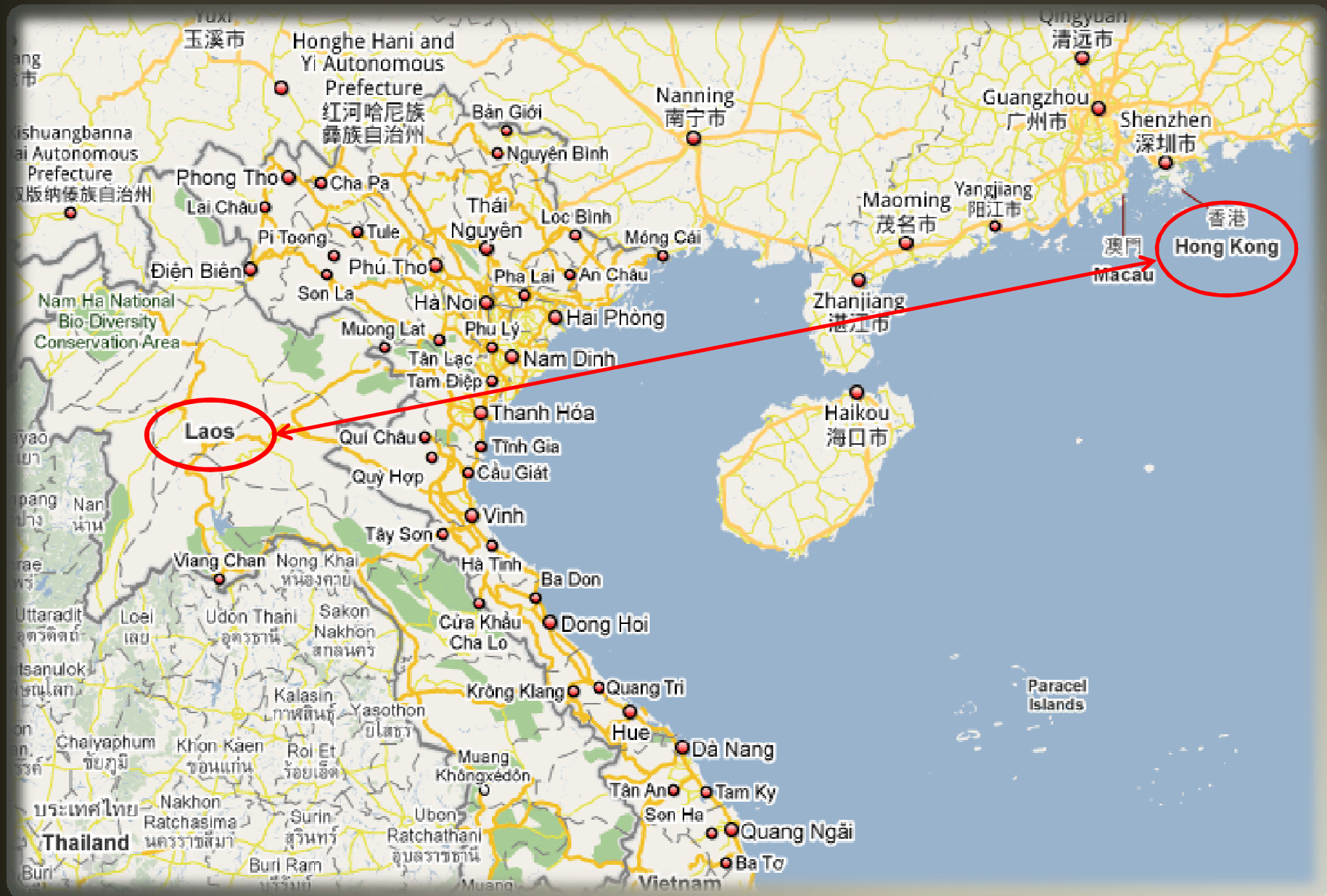


INTERIM 2010

with

Mr. Joe Nolasco, Ms Shirley Wan

Where is LAOS?



A Brief Look at Laos

- **LOCATION:** Laos is located at the centre of the Mekong region, and share a border with Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and China.
- **HISTORY:** Once part of French Indo-China. During the 60s & 70s, Laos was the most heavily bombed country and this continues to have a devastating impact on its population.
- **PEOPLE:** Laos contains a number of minority tribes with enormous ethnic diversity.
- **RELIGION:** Theravada Buddhism is a dominant influence in Lao culture, it is reflected throughout the country from language, performing arts and the number of temples and shrines dotting the landscape, etc.
- **ECONOMY:** After years of wars and isolation, Laos is one of the world's poorest countries . Subsistence agriculture provides 80% of total employment and half of the GDP.
- **DEVELOPMENT:** In the early '90s, the Laos government encourage economic reform and private enterprise and opened up to tourism. However, the Laos government has shown little inclination to address the low education standards and other problems. Some NGOs and foreign aid programs are trying to help, but human resources remain poorly developed.

(Source: <http://www.iexplore.com/dmap/Laos/History> and <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/laos/history>)

WHAT TO EXPECT...

Service - Work with NGOs:

- Work with Big Brother Mouse to participate in Book Party at the local school.
- Visit My Library to interact with the local young people.
- Visit Free the Bears sanctuary to foster awareness of the threats in global bear population and learn about preservation.

Culture - Interact with local people:

- Give alms to monks in morning.
- Village Stay activities (with Host Family): Farming, Fishing, Weaving, Basket making, local music, singsong and dance activities, games with children, Temple restoration and help with family chores.
- Visit Pak Ou cave, Wat Xia Thong, UXO office, other historic sites, swim in Kuang waterfall, climb Mt. Phousi.

VILLAGE STAY

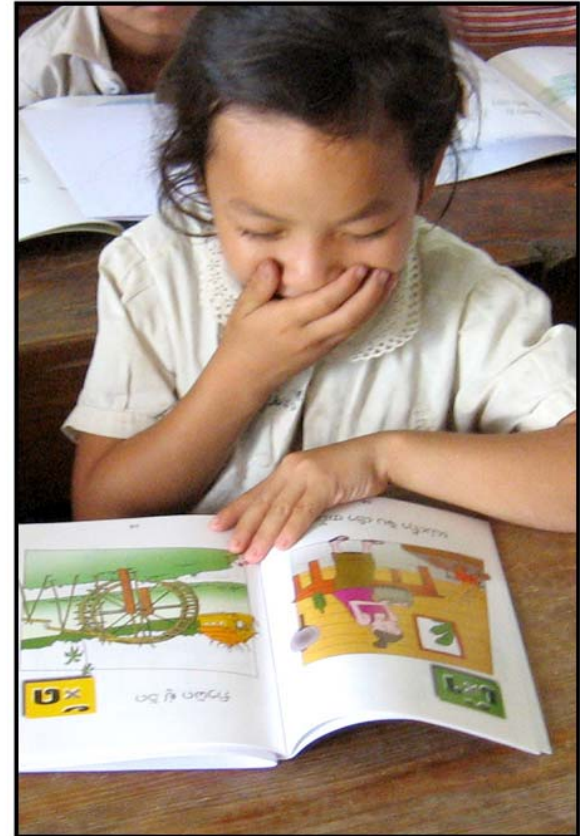


Back to the basic...



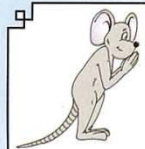
BIG BROTHER MOUSE

Publishing good books is only the beginning. Kids in most villages have never seen a fun book, and there's no good system for distributing books. So we thought about what to do...



BOOK DONATION

Donation will go to publish fun-to-read books in Laos language.



ປຶ້ມນີ້ສາມາດພິມອອກໄດ້ ກໍຍ້ອນການ
ສະໜັບສະໜູນຂອງໂຮງຮຽນນາງຊາດຊິງກິງ ກຸ່ມທີ່ມາ
ຢ້ຽມຢາມລາວປີ 2009.
ຂໍຂອບໃຈຫຼາຍໆ!
ແລະ ຂໍຂອບໃຈເປັນພິເສດນຳ ຄເລຍ ວິຊຸເຊີນ ທັສສາ
ທີ່ອານຸຍາດໃຫ້ພວກເຮົານຳໃຊ້ເລື່ອງ ແລະ ຮູບແຕ້ມ.

This book was made possible with a donation from the Hong Kong International School, Laos Interim Group 2009. Thank you!

And a special thank-you to Clear Vision Trust (www.clear-vision.org) for allowing us to use their stories and artwork.

ພວກເຮົາມີປຶ້ມຫຼາຍຫົວພ້ອມທີ່ຈະພິມອອກສູ່ສັງຄົມລາວ ແຕ່ພວກເຮົາ
ພັດບໍ່ມີຜູ້ອຸປະຖຳພຽງພໍ. ຂໍໃຫ້ທ່ານຊ່ວຍອຸປະຖຳຈະໄດ້ບໍ່?

We have other books ready to print, as soon as they have a sponsor. Can you help?

www.BigBrotherMouse.com

ລາຊາແຫ່ງຝູງລຶງ

ໂດຍ: ອາດິກາບານທູ ແລະ ພັດມາສຣີ, ແປໂດຍ: ໄຜຫວານ
ກວດແກ້ພາສາລາວໂດຍ: ຄະນະບັນນາທິການອ້າຍຫນຸ້ນອຍ
ສະຫງວນລິຂະສິດບົດຂຽນ ແລະ ຮູບແຕ້ມ © 1998 ຄເລຍ ວິຊຸເຊີນ ທັສສາ
ຈັດພິມໂດຍ: ຮ້ານປຶ້ມອ້າຍຫນຸ້ນອຍ, ຫຼວງພະບາງ.

ພິມຄັ້ງທີ 2 ທະບຽນອະນຸຍາດ: ລທບ 140ພຈ03062009
ພິມທີ່ ເອສ ເອັມ ພິ ການພິມ, ວຽງຈັນ, 2009. ຈຳນວນ 8000 ຫົວ.

The Monkey King

by Adiccabandhu and Padmasri

Published by Big Brother Mouse, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

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ລາຊາແຫ່ງຝູງລຶງ



ປຶ້ມອ່ານງ່າຍ ແລະ ມ່ວນຂອງອ້າຍຫນຸ້ນອຍ



LOCAL SCHOOL VISIT FOR BOOK PARTY



MY LIBRARY

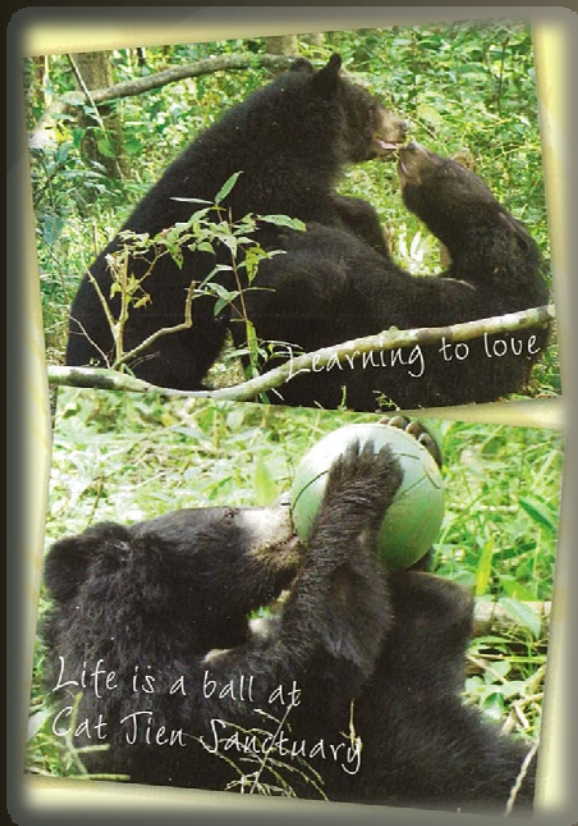
Empower local people studying to help themselves.

Also known as The Language Project, create and support libraries in underdeveloped areas. Giving motivated Laos people the resources and tools they need to study and develop thinking skills.

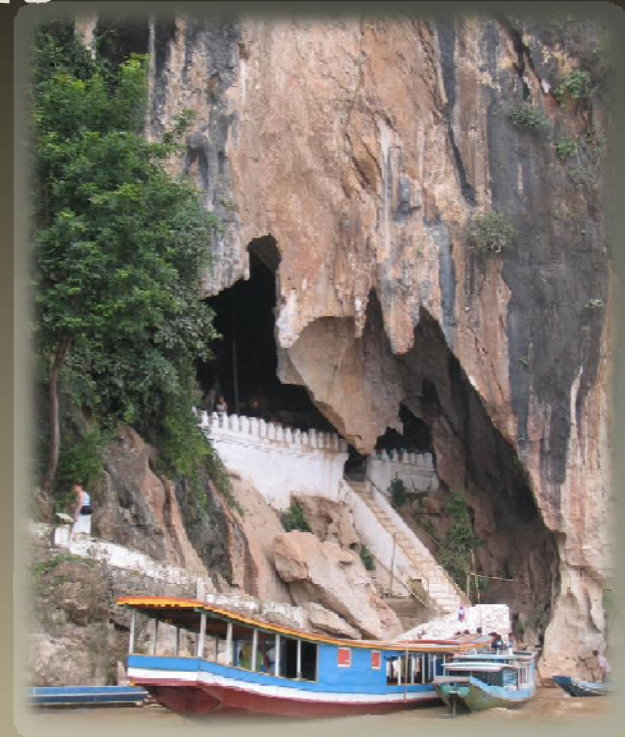


FREE THE BEARS SANCTUARY

All the bears here have been confiscated from traffickers and poachers, sometimes arriving at the centre in poor condition. In this rescue centre, these bears begin to flourish in the safety of a secure, forested sanctuary.



OTHER AMAZING ATTRACTIONS



[illegible]

Tentative Travel Itinerary

- Depart HK on Saturday, March 6 (*morning flight*).
- Arrive Luang Prabang in the afternoon. (*The ancient town of Luang Prabang situated in northern Laos, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995.*)
- Sunday (March 7) – Give alms to Monks, Visit Wat Xia Thong, Children's Cultural Center, nearby villages.
- Monday-Thursday (March 8 to 11) – Village Stay; daily activities with host family, learn their tradition, do family chores and temple restoration.
- Thursday (Mar 11) - Visit Free the Bears Sanctuary, visit Pak Ou cave , Buddha cave, boat cruise and My Library & Temples.
- Friday (Mar 12) – Book Party at the local school with Big Brother Mouse, Visit UXO office, Climb mountain to view city sunset and My Library & Temples.
- Depart Laos on Saturday, March 13 (*afternoon flight*) – *Climb Mt Phousi, Palace tour and last minute shopping.*
- Return to HK late evening